



**Testimony to the House Natural Resources Committee
In Support of Senate Bill 507
By Michigan Waste & Recycling Association
February 9, 2015**

Madam chair and committee members, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to present our position of support for Senate Bill 507. My name is Tonia Olson. I am here on behalf of the Michigan Waste & Recycling Association.

Our association represents businesses and municipalities that provide waste- and recycling-related services. We advocate for safe, economically sustainable and environmentally sound waste hauling, disposal, recycling, composting and landfill gas-to-energy programs.

In April 2014, Governor Snyder announced a plan designed to increase recycling statewide. A reliable measurement, tracking and reporting system was identified as the first component required for a comprehensive statewide recycling program.

Senate Bill 507 is the first step to increasing Michigan's recycling rate. It creates a simple method of reporting to allow for an annual calculation of the rate of state-wide recycling while protecting the confidential nature of the information and the sources providing the information.

The Michigan Waste and Recycling Association (MWRA) initiated the discussion on recycling reporting and worked with numerous stakeholders to help bring this legislation forward.

We view this legislation as an opportunity to gain actual rather than extrapolated data that will provide a more complete understanding of the recycling rate for the state. This will allow public policy decisions using state resources to be based on accurate information.

The Michigan Waste & Recycling Association encourages your support of Senate Bill 507.

SUPPORT SENATE BILL 507

The first step to increasing Michigan's Recycling Rate

Senate Bill 507 creates a **simple** method of **reporting** to allow for an annual calculation of the rate of **state-wide** recycling. Currently, there are no state requirements related to recycling reporting.



According to the Michigan Recycling Index, a study of *extrapolated* data based on interviews and questionnaires conducted in 2014, Michigan achieved an estimated MSW recycling rate of 15 percent in 2013. The national average is 35 percent.

Senate Bill 507 is sponsored by Senator Mike Green (primary), Senator Wayne A. Schmidt, Senator Margaret O'Brien, Senator Jack Brandenburg, Senator Rebekah Warren, Senator Judy K. Emmons, Senator Phil Pavlov, Senator Mike Kowall, Senator Tonya Schuitmaker, Senator Peter MacGregor and Senator Dale Zorn

Senate Bill 507

- Creates Part 175: Recycling Reporting
- Defines "recycling," "recycling establishment" and "reportable recyclable material"
- Establishes annual registration for recycling establishments
- Establishes a reporting process for recycling establishments
 - Amount of reportable recyclable materials received and shipped
 - Reported by category: glass, paper, plastic, metal, textiles or single-stream
- Provides exemptions
 - Iron, steel or nonferrous metals managed by person subject to Scrap Metal Regulatory Act
 - Materials from shredding or dismantling of motor vehicles
 - Beneficial use under Part 115
 - E-waste under Part 173
 - Recycling establishments managing less than 100 tons per year.
- Allows aggregate reports from multiple recycling establishments
- Establishes reporting guidelines to minimize double counting
- Confidential data protected from FOIA
- DEQ to report annually to legislature



SUPPORT SENATE BILL 507

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The data gained from this new reporting will provide a more complete understanding of the recycling rate for the state, thus allowing public policy decisions using state resources to be based on accurate information.

—Tonia Olson, Legislative Chair Michigan Waste & Recycling Association

The following organizations **support** and **encourage adoption** of **Senate Bill 507**:

- Advanced Disposal
- Carton Council
- Glass Recyclers Ltd.
- Golder Associates
- Granger
- ISRI-MI Chapter
- Landfill Management Company
- Michigan Association of Counties
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality
- Michigan Food & Beverage Association (MFBA)
- Michigan Grocers Association
- Michigan Recycling Coalition
- Michigan Recycling Partnership (MRP)
- Michigan Soft Drink Association
- Michigan Townships Association
- Michigan Waste & Recycling Association (MWRA)
- Michigan United Conservation Clubs
- NTH Consultants, Ltd.
- Pitsch Sanitary Landfill
- Recycle Livingston, Inc.
- Republic Services
- Resource Recycling Systems, Inc.
- Tetra Pak Inc.
- Waste Management
- West Michigan Environmental Action Council

